

FRG Newsletter

December 12, 2005

Greetings from Camp Virginia to the Iron Caissons family! I am proud to announce the safe arrival of all our Soldiers and equipment into Kuwait. Beginning with the arrival of our advance party on the 1st of December many hours of hard work have taken place to prepare the battalion for onward movement to Iraq. Many of our dedicated Soldiers spent a week at the sea port unloading several vessels with over 55 pieces of equipment and 66 containers destined for 589th. Our liaison team of CPT Freschi and SFC Drummond continue to do great work for us in Iraq procuring vital equipment. I am positive that the hard work of all of these fine Soldiers will make our battalion fully equipped and ready for any mission.

We continue to hone our warrior skills while here in Kuwait. Our Soldiers have excelled at several key training events. Every Soldier has completed test firing of their weapon, along with classes on IED awareness. Both of these events have made us better prepared to face any threat we may encounter. Our capstone training event has been our convoy live fire exercise. During this event 120 Soldiers from 589th along with 11 of our brand new fully armored HMMWVs negotiated a challenging course designed to test our combat skills. The Soldiers employed all of our available weapon and communications systems during the three day event. Our leaders were able to exercise all of our troop leading procedures as they faced mock scenarios of events we may encounter in Iraq. After witnessing our Soldiers and leaders execute this event I have complete confidence that we will be safe and successful in our mission.

Our best news and my greatest privilege has been the opportunity to conduct several promotions and a battalion reenlistment ceremony. This month two officers were promoted. 2LT Robin Ernstrom of Bravo Company was advanced to 1LT in a twilight ceremony. Robin's husband, also an officer in the 4ID, was able to attend and actually present her with her new rank. Also from Bravo Company WO1 William Kempkes was advanced to CW2 in true Iron Caisson fashion. CW4 Gordon, the ranking warrant officer in the battalion, conducted the ceremony in our desert motor pool. Both officers offered many thanks to those present as well as their family back home who offer unwavering support. On December 11, 2005 our battalion had its first ever reenlistment ceremony. Twenty one Soldiers raised their right hand and swore to continue defending the United States against all enemies. Combined, these fine troopers committed to 108 years of continued service. In exchange for their commitment, combined they received over \$183,000. Their names appear following this article. I am sincerely proud of each and every one of these fine Soldiers and I continued to be awestruck by the dedication displayed in the face of adversity by all 589th Soldiers.

Our most noteworthy achievement continues to be YOU, our loyal supporters and loving families. Without your support and encouragement we would not be able to accomplish the great things we have. I encourage you to maintain strong communication links with our FRG leaders and I will continue to post updates on a regular basis. I ask for your continued support to our Soldiers and your thoughts and prayers to all. **SUPPORT THE FIGHT! IRON CAISSONS!**

Sincerely,

BARRY A. DIEHL
Lieutenant Colonel, USA

HHC/589th

SSG Dunnaway, Bryan
PFC Collins, Nelson
SSG Calhoun, Corey
PFC Lawrence, Sheridan

A Co/589th

SGT Northrup, Randall
SGT Wallace, Nakias
SGT Rieger, Rodney
SSG Sellers, Robert
SGT Daniels, Larissa
SSG Fisher, Kenneth

B Co/589th

PFC Jenkins, Heather
SPC(P) Ming, Julian
PFC Coss, Robert

C Co/589th

SPC Phillips, Dewayne
SGT Perez, Ariel
SGT Donahue, Shawn
SSG Westbrook, Lonnie
SGT Terga, Jose
SSG(P) Giles, Colleen
SPC Guardado, Raul
SPC Dustin, Walker
SPC Goltz, Johnathan
SGT Mostiler, William